Sectt. II-27—40,000—27-10-51.

Public (Political) (1947) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 2823

Dated 11 9 47

[Despatch Abstract.]

Correspondence - Direct correspondence between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in India and the Government of Pakistan and the Provincial Governments in Pakistan - Instructions of the Government of India Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC (POLITICAL) DEPARTMENT.

G.O.No.2823, 11th September 1947.

Correspondence - Direct Correspondence between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in India and the Government of Pakistan and the Provincial Governments in Pakistan - Instructions of the Government of India - Recorded.

Read the following:-

Letter from S. Dutt, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (India), to all Provincial Governments (including West Bengal and East Punjab) and Chief Commissioners, dated New Delhi, the 27th August 1947, No.F.22/47-OS.V.

/ Procedure of communication between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan /

I am directed to say that the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations has had under consideration the question of channel of correspondence between the Governments of India and Pakistan. In this connection the channel of correspondence between the following arises:-

(a) Central Government of India and the Central Government of Pakistan;

(b) Provincial Governments in India and Provincial Governments in Pakistan or Vice Versa: and

(c) Provincial Governments in India to the Central Government of Pakistan or Vice Versa: and

(d) subordinate authorities in the two Dominions.

It has now been decided, in consultation with the Government of Pakistan, that, with immediate effect, the following procedure should be observed:-

(a) Direct correspondence between the Administrative Departments of the two Governments should be reduced to the minimum. As between the two Central Governments all communications should ordinarily be from the External Affairs Department of India to the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Department of Pakistan the two Governments speaking through the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan, or Vice Versa. This will, however, be subject to the following exceptions:-

(i) all correspondence relating to partition matters during the interim period, i.e., the period ending the 31st March 1948, will be between the Partition Office, India, and the Partition Office, Pakistan, direct, with copies of important communications being sent to the High Commissioner concerned;

(ii) on all matters arising from any administrative arrangements agreed to by the two Governments there may be direct correspondence between the Departments of the Government of India and their opposite numbers in the Pakistan Government, copies of important communications being sent to the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan;

(iii) where the correspondence under (ii) relates to a matter involving a question of policy or is of such importance that even though not involving such a question at the initial stage may eventually lead to negotiations or a ~~policy~~

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policy decision between the two Governments, the channel of communication shall, except where agreed to by the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Department, be through the External Affairs Departments of the two Governments, speaking through their respective High Commissioners.

(b) There shall be no direct communication of any kind beween the Provincial Governments in India and in Pakistan, except---

(1) on matters of a purely routine nature; and

(2) up to the 31st March 1948 in regard to partition matters between the Governments of East and West Bengal and Assam and the Governments of Eastern and western Punjab.

(c) There shall be no direct correspondence between a Province in India and the Central Government of Pakistan and Vice Versa.

(d) There shall ordinarily be no communication between subordinate authorities in the two Dominions except where specially authorised or in the execution of the ordinary processes of law in accordance with any agreement between the two Governments.

2. It is requested that necessary instructions may kindly be issued in the matter to the authorities concerned.

Order --No.2823, Public (Political), dated 11th September 1947.

Recorded.

(BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR)

K. RAMUNNI MENON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat (including Public Deprtment)
To the Board of Revenue
To all Collectors.
To all Heads of Departments including District and Sessions Judges (except Board of Revenue)
Copy to the Governor's Secretariat.
Copy to the Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Primer Minister.
Copy to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

/True Copy/

R. Thiagarajan 2.1.84

Office Assistant,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

GK.

17/1/83 12.12